

Southern Regional Research Laboratory  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
August 30, 1949

To: Director and Laboratory Staff  
From: Survey and Appraisal  
Subject: SURVEY NOTES

## F A R M   S I T U A T I O N

### CASH FARM INCOME UP SLIGHTLY IN 1948

Cash receipts from crops, livestock, and livestock products in 1948 were 1.8 percent higher than in 1947, while cash income to farmers in the Southern Laboratory Region increased 4.4 percent for the same period. The Southern Laboratory Region received 18.7 percent of the total cash income of \$30.5 billion. National income from cotton lint in 1948 increased 12.3 percent over 1947; cottonseed, 4.4 percent; peanuts, 12.6 percent; forest products, 14.4 percent; and wool, 7.6 percent. Cash income from rice, sweetpotatoes, and mohair declined during 1948. (See table 2, page 2).

## C O T T O N   L I N T

### COTTON CONSUMPTION LOWER THAN LAST YEAR; STOCKS UP

Cotton consumption was 7,797,841 bales during the 1948-49 crop year as compared to 9,354,392 bales during 1947-48. July figures dropped 145,000 bales below the June consumption. Stocks on hand July 31 totaled 5.0 million bales, nearly double the amount on hand at the same date last year. Spindle activity dropped drastically during July.

Table 1.- Cotton consumption and stocks, and spindle hours in cotton mills

	: July	: June	: May	: July
	: 1949	: 1949	: 1949	: 1948
Consumption, bales .....	455,106	600,495	580,078	627,393
On hand, 1000 bales .....	5,027	5,465	6,357	2,806
Active spindle hours, billions..	5.6	7.5	7.4	7.9
Spindle activity, percent of	:	:	:	:
80-hour capacity 1/.....	79.6	95.8	93.8	101.3
	:	:	:	:

1/ Includes activity on fibers other than cotton, totaling 0.3 to 0.6 billion spindle hours for each month shown.

From Census reports.

### COTTON PRICE FALLS; MILL MARGINS UP SLIGHTLY

The delivered-at-mill price of Middlin; 15/16" cotton was 32.86 cents per pound on August 18, or 1.20 cents lower than the average price for July 1949, while



Table 2.- Contribution of various crops, livestock, and livestock products to the total cash receipts 1/ of farmers in the U.S. and in the Southern Laboratory Region 2/, 1948, with changes from last year for each crop

	United States				Southern Laboratory Region				S.L.R. share of total farm income by crops and livestock products			
	Cash farm income		Change from last year		Cash farm income		Change from last year		Cash farm income		Change from last year	
	Million dollars	Percent	Percent		Million dollars	Percent	Percent		Million dollars	Percent	Percent	
CROPS AND LIVESTOCK.....	30,545.5	100.0	+ 1.8		5,699.9	100.0	+ 4.4					
Crops.....	13,484.7	44.1	- 0.1		3,580.9	62.8	+ 2.0					
Cotton lint.....	2,140.2	7.0	+12.3		1,672.7	29.3	+10.6					
Wheat.....	2,377.3	7.8	- 6.4		322.6	5.7	-22.1					
Cottonseed.....	352.1	1.1	+ 4.4		270.9	4.7	+ 4.3					
Truck crops.....	1,187.7	3.9	- 0.6		223.1	3.9	+13.3					
Peanuts.....	222.9	0.7	+12.6		161.5	2.8	+ 9.9					
Rice.....	172.7	0.6	- 5.0		135.8	2.4	- 7.6					
Tobacco.....	975.3	3.2	- 5.2		128.8	2.3	- 2.4					
Forest products.....	324.3	1.1	+14.4		96.7	1.7	+16.0					
Corn.....	1,139.3	3.7	-13.9		79.5	1.4	+ 2.6					
Grain sorghums.....	105.9	0.3	- 0.5		77.9	1.4	- 5.8					
Oranges.....	177.7	0.6	+ 0.7		65.9	1.2	- 5.4					
Greenhouse, nursery products.....	432.6	1.4	+ 6.3		38.1	0.7	+ 6.4					
Potatoes.....	566.3	1.9	+20.3		25.6	0.4	+14.6					
Sweetpotatoes.....	45.9	0.1	-13.7		22.9	0.4	-21.9					
Other.....	3,264.5	10.7	+ 0.7		258.9	4.5	-14.6					
Livestock.....	17,060.8	55.9	+ 3.3		2,119.0	37.1	+ 8.7					
Cattle, calves.....	5,223.3	17.1	+ 5.9		939.4	16.5	+14.0					
Dairy products.....	4,433.0	14.5	+ 9.6		377.2	6.6	+ 6.6					
Hogs.....	3,727.6	12.2	- 6.9		329.9	5.8	+ 4.1					
Eggs.....	1,856.7	6.1	+ 4.3		194.9	3.4	+ 1.4					
Chickens.....	923.4	3.0	+ 7.1		161.0	2.8	+15.8					
Sheep, lambs.....	408.0	1.3	+ 1.1		33.7	0.6	- 9.5					
Wool.....	114.1	0.4	+ 7.6		30.0	0.5	+12.8					
Turkeys.....	254.7	0.8	+ 7.3		26.8	0.5	- 2.8					
Mohair.....	7.5	0.1	-24.2		7.3	0.1	-22.8					
Other.....	112.5	0.4	-12.2		18.8	0.3	-18.0					

1/ Does not include value of home consumption or government payments.

2/ Includes S.C., Ga., Fla., Ala., Miss., Ark., La., Okla., and Texas.

Based on data from "Farm Income Situation", BAE.



viscose and acetate staple fiber prices were unchanged from last month. Cloth prices (average 17 construction) dropped slightly and mill margins increased.

Table 3.- Prices of raw cotton, rayon staple and cotton fabrics, and cotton mill margins in cents.

	:Aug. 18:	July :	June :	May :	July
	: 1949 :	: 1949 :	: 1949 :	: 1949 :	: 1948
Cotton, Middling 15/16"	:	:	:	:	:
delivered at mills, lb.....	32.86	34.06	34.37	34.43	35.61
Rayon, viscose staple	:	:	:	:	:
equivalent price 1/, lb.....	31.15	31.15	31.15	32.04	32.04
Rayon, acetate staple	:	:	:	:	:
equivalent price 1/, lb.....	37.38	37.38	37.38	37.38	42.72
Cotton fabrics, average 17 constructions,	:	:	:	:	:
Price for cloth from 1 lb. of cotton 2/:	-	59.99	60.22	61.27	79.04
Mill margins 3/.....	-	28.18	27.75	28.76	45.58
	:	:	:	:	:
Sheeting, 37" 4.00, yd. 4/.....	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	16.50
Osnaburg, 36" 2.35, yd. 5/.....	19.00	19.00	19.50	20.00	22.00
Printcloth, 38-1/2" 5.35, yd. 4/.....	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.19	18.00
	:	:	:	:	:

1/ Cost to mill of same amount of usable fiber as supplied by one pound of cotton (rayon price x .89).

2/ Price of approximate quantity of cloth obtainable from a pound of cotton with adjustments for saleable wastes (Cotton Branch, PMA).

3/ Difference between cloth prices and prices (10-market average) of cotton assumed to be used in each kind of cloth (Cotton Branch, PMA).

4/ From Daily Mill Stock Reporter.

5/ From Daily News Record.

#### COTTON PRODUCTION SLIGHTLY UNDER LAST YEAR EXPECTED

The 14,805,000 bale cotton crop forecast by the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, based on information as of August 1, is 63,000 bales, or 0.4 percent, less than last year's production despite 14 percent more acreage. Unfavorable weather and heavy boll weevil infestation in central and eastern states more than offset unusually favorable prospects in Texas and the three far-western states. Production in 1948 was 14,868,000 bales and the 1938-47 average is 11,306,000 bales. Lint yield per acre for the United States, computed at 274.4 pounds, is 38.7 pounds below last year's record yield but 20.4 pounds above the 10-year average. The acreage for harvest this year, assuming average abandonment, is indicated at 25,897,000 acres, largest since 1937.

Cotton Production, BAE, August 1949, p.1.

#### USDA ANNOUNCES NEW COTTON SUPPORT PRICE

The Department of Agriculture is ready to support producers' prices, by means of loans on stored cotton, at rates averaging 27.23 cents a pound gross weight for Middling 7/8-inch cotton and 29.43 cent for Middling 15/16 inch cotton. Comparable rates last year were 28.79 and 30.74 cents, respectively.

Southern Textile News, August 6, 1949, p.15.



# COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND EQUIPMENT

## COMPANY ESTIMATES \$16,150 NEEDED TO CREATE COTTON TEXTILE JOB

According to a survey made by Ralph E. Loper Company, an initial capital investment of \$16,150 for the necessary buildings, machinery, inventory, raw material, and working capital would be needed to set up a job in the cotton textile industry today. A similar analysis made by the same company in 1936 estimated a capital requirement of \$4,402. A breakdown shows \$4,800 needed for buildings today compared with \$1,074 in 1936; for machinery, \$8,600 versus \$2,146, and for working capital \$2,750 against \$1,182. At today's costs, the total initial capital investment required is 267 percent more than was necessary in 1936. The study is based on industry-wide estimates and two and one-half shifts averaging 100 hours of work per week.

Daily News Record, July 15, 1949, p. 20.

## COTTON PRODUCTS

### BAGS: COTTON AND BURLAP FLOUR BAG PRICES RISE

On August 15, cotton flour bags sold for \$5 per thousand more than on July 15, while the burlap bag price rose \$19.70 per thousand bags during the same month. Paper bags sold at the same price during July and August.

Table 4.- Mid-Month prices of 100 pound flour bags

(Dollars per thousand)

	: August	: July	: June	: August
	: 1949	: 1949	: 1949	: 1948
<u>Prices, new, St. Louis 1/</u>				
Cotton.....	226.00	221.00	221.00	236.25
Burlap.....	226.50	206.80	194.25	228.85
Paper.....	98.70	98.70	98.70	108.65
<u>Prices, second-hand, New York</u>				
Cotton, once-used 2/.....	5/	120.00	120.00	140.00
Cotton, bakery run 3/.....	85.00	80.00	90.00	105.00
Burlap, once-used 2/.....	5/	90.00	85.00	4/
Burlap, bakery run 5/.....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Paper, bakery run 3/.....	5.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
<u>Difference</u>				
Cotton, new minus once-used.....	5/	101.00	101.00	96.25
Cotton, new minus bakery run.....	141.00	141.00	131.00	123.85
Burlap, new minus once-used.....	5/	116.80	109.25	4/
Burlap, new minus bakery run.....	126.00	106.80	94.25	128.85
Paper, new minus bakery run.....	93.70	93.70	93.70	98.65

- 1/ Cotton, 37" 4.00 yd. sheeting cut 43" unprinted; burlap, 36" 10 oz. cut 43" unprinted; paper, 18 x 4-1/2 x 36-3/4" unprinted; all l. c. l. shipments. No allowance made for quantity or cash discounts. From a large bag manufacturer.
- 2/ From a large second-hand bag dealer.
- 3/ From Daily Mill stock Reporter.
- 4/ No data available.
- 5/ No quotation received.



# FELT: KENDALL MILLS DEVELOPS A FELT MADE ENTIRELY OF COTTON

A-felt made entirely of cotton has been developed by Kendall Mills. Kendall has applied for patents on the new material, known as Webril non-woven fabric, Type R, which contains no wool or animal fibers and is held together without binding agents. The new felt is made by an elaborate entangling process which eliminates weaving and spinning, giving it strength and freedom from linting. At the same time, the product is soft, flexible, and conformable, and is said to be useful in artificial leather, plastics, surgical dressings, batteries and filters. The ability to felt has long been considered an exclusive natural property of some animal fibers. Kendall Mills officials say that until their scientists invented Webril R, it had been considered impossible to produce a true felt made wholly of cotton.

Daily News Record, July 15, 1949, p. 1

## HOSIERY: COTTON SECOND TO NYLON IN 1948 AND 1949 SHIPMENTS

Cotton comprised about 30 percent of the total hosiery shipped during 1948 and 1949. Most of the cotton hosiery was seamless, only a negligible portion being full fashioned. Nylon is the most important fiber used in hosiery accounting for 43 percent in 1948 and 49 percent in the first half of 1949 as compared to cotton, 31 percent and 30 percent for the two periods, respectively; rayon, 18 percent and 15 percent; wool, 6 percent and 5 percent; silk and mixtures, negligible percents.

Table 5.- Shipments <sup>1/</sup> of hosiery by fiber, United States, 1948 and January-June 1949, expressed as percentages of total shipments of hosiery

	Total	Cotton	Wool	Silk	Rayon	Nylon	Mix- tures
	Per- dozen pairs	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent
1948							
Women's full fashioned....	42,718	100.0	0.4	-	0.3	2.8	92.6
Women's seamless.....	7,997	100.0	30.8	1.2	0.1	22.3	42.9
Men's seamless half hose..	16,477	100.0	49.2	10.8	0.1	38.1	1.8
Men's seamless slack socks:	25,454	100.0	56.9	4.2	0.1	35.9	2.9
Bundle goods, seamless...	7,084	100.0	76.8	23.2	-	-	-
Athletic socks, seamless..	1,825	100.0	17.8	82.2	-	-	-
Total.....	101,555	100.0	30.5	6.0	0.2	18.1	43.3
1949, January-June							
Women's full fashioned....	21,066	100.0	0.3	-	0.3	0.1	97.7
Women's seamless.....	3,483	100.0	18.2	0.3	0.3	21.8	56.9
Men's seamless half hose..	6,939	100.0	50.6	12.4	0.1	34.1	2.8
Men's seamless slack socks:	12,478	100.0	58.3	2.2	0.1	32.3	7.1
Bundle goods, seamless...	2,965	100.0	84.9	15.1	-	-	-
Athletic socks, seamless..	963	100.0	14.3	85.7	-	-	-
Total.....	47,894	100.0	29.5	5.0	0.2	15.0	49.4

<sup>1/</sup> Misses' and women's ribbed seamless hosiery, seamless crew socks, seamless children's and infants' hosiery, and seamless anklets are not included, for quantitative data broken down by fiber content were not available. These shipments comprise 71 percent of the total hosiery shipments in 1948 and 69 percent in January-June 1949.

Based on data from "Hosiery Statistics," National Assn. of Hosiery Manufacturers.



# TIRE FABRIC: COTTON TIRE CORD PRICE DECLINES

Cotton fabric prices for passenger tires declines slightly from July 1 to Aug. 1, while all types of rayon fabric remained unchanged. On August 1, some manufacturers were selling cotton fabric for as low as 64.5 cents per pound.

Table 6.- Prices of cotton and rayon tire fabric, July 1 and June 1, 1949

Fabric	Cord	Fabric weight per sq.yd.	Price per pound		Price per sq. yd.	
			August 1	July 1	August 1	July 1
			Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Passenger car tires						
Cotton fabric.....	12/4/2	.86	64.5-67.5	67.5	55.5-58.1	58.1
Rayon fabric.....	1650/2	.67	64.0-65.0	64.5-65	42.9-43.6	43.2-43.6
Truck tires						
Rayon fabric.....	1100/2	.54	67.0	67.0	36.2	36.2
Rayon fabric.....	2200/2	.81	63.0	63.0	51.0	51.0

Based on reports from independent rubber companies.

## TIRE CORD: U. S. RUBBER UNIT TO INCREASE OUTPUT OF RAYON CORD

The Shelbyville mills unit of the United States Rubber Co. has begun layoffs that may affect up to 150 of the plant's 550 employees. Increased demand for rayon tire cord at the expense of cotton cord, in which the Shelbyville Mills specializes, is cited as reason for the layoffs. Steps are being taken to effect certain equipment changes to permit increased production of rayon tire cord. Less labor is required on the rayon processing than in cotton cord production, according to the company's officials.

Daily News Record, July 15, 1949, p.21.

## TROUSERS: COTTON AND WOOL CUTTINGS DOWN; RAYON CUTTINGS UP DURING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1949

According to the Bureau of the Census, cotton and wool trouser cuttings were down 23 and 27 percent respectively from last year during January-April 1949, while rayon trouser cuttings gained 8 percent.

Table 7.- Cuttings of dress and sport trousers, United States, January-April, 1948 and 1949

	January-April 1949	January-April 1948	Change since last year
	units	units	Percent
TOTAL.....	12,442.1	14,623.0	-15
Cotton.....	1,667.1	2,153.4	-23
Rayon.....	5,158.7	4,787.7	+ 8
Wool.....	5,596.3	7,681.9	-27

Facts for Industry series "Cuttings of Selected Men's Garments," April 1949.

## COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS

### NYLON: BURLINGTON MILLS PRODUCING NEW SEAT COVER FABRIC

Burlington Mills is producing a new seat cover fabric—a lightweight printed nylon fabric that is suitable also for slipcovers. It is claimed to repel almost



any type of stains as a result of the dyeing process used. This new fabric will be introduced for automobile seatcovers and later offered to the home furnishing trade.

Daily News Record, July 15, 1949, p.22.

#### FABRIC X DEVELOPED BY CLEVELAND INVENTOR

According to James H. Rand III, a Cleveland inventor, he has developed a fabric made of exceedingly fine flakes of gold, silver or aluminum, combined in a colorless plastic base. Printed on a piece of cloth, this "Fabric X" more than doubled the warmth. Some materials were found to be warmer than others because they reflect the heat of the body better. Since small metal particles would reflect heat even better than wool, cotton or nylon, Rand began to work on the idea, aided by various research men as well as by the Glidden Co. and the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. He says the new material would cut the weight of winter clothes to a minimum, and also chop heating bills in half. A room of 40 degrees could be comfortable to individuals wearing "Fabric X" clothes, he claims.

Southern Textile News, July 23, 1949, p.3

#### MOHAIR: RMA CONTRACTS FOR PRIVATE STUDY OF MOHAIR MARKET

The Research and Marketing Administration (U. S. D. A.) has placed a contract with Ralph E. Burgess Services, Inc., New York, for a marketing study of mohair. The cost of the study is \$30,000, one-third of which is defrayed by the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association and the balance by the RMA. RMA indicated it was undertaking the study because of the large stock of mohair in the country, the low prices being received by growers, and the fiber's declining use.

The contractors will arrange for designing, spinning, weaving and manufacture of experimental yarns and fibers made wholly of mohair or in combination with other fibers. Samples of consumers' products will be made from these yarns and fibers, if they are considered worth while. The reaction of manufacturers and consumers of these products also will be obtained. After six or eight months, the contractor will submit to RMA a report on proposed new uses for mohair.

Daily News Record, July 15, 1949, p. 1.

#### WOOL: JANUARY-MAY CONSUMPTION 33 PERCENT LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

Consumption of raw wool, on a scoured basis, was 204.1 million pounds for the first five months of 1949, as compared to 306.3 million pounds for the same period one year ago. This was a decline of 33 percent. During the January-May periods of 1948 and 1949, apparel wool comprised 72 percent and 63 percent respectively of the total wool consumption.

Table 8.- Consumption of wool of the sheep, scoured basis,  
United States, January-May 1948 and 1949

	: January-May : 1949	: January-May : 1948	: Change since : last year
	: Million pounds	: Million pounds	: Percent
TOTAL.....	204.1	306.3	-33
Apparel.....	127.7	220.5	-42
Woolen system.....	50.1	74.8	-33
Worsted system.....	77.6	145.7	-47
Carpet class-foreign.....	76.4	85.8	-11
Woolen system.....	74.8	82.8	-10
Worsted system.....	1.6	3.0	-47



## TEXTILE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

### NEW KNIT GOODS TESTER DEVELOPED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A machine to give knit fabrics a complete test of elasticity has been invented by textile specialist in the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The device measures instant come-back of a stretched material as well as the delayed come-back occurring a few seconds later, and simultaneously measures two-way stretch, crosswise and lengthwise. The new machine shows that when nylon knit fabric is stretched, two-thirds of its come-back is the delayed type, it is claimed. Wool knit fabric reacts just the opposite to nylon. About two-thirds of its elastic recovery is immediate. In cotton and rayon knit goods, the amount of delayed recovery is about equal to the instant recovery. Both types of elastic recovery, accurately measured, will help in determining the suitability of various fabrics for clothing uses.

Institute News, Underwear Institute, July 1949, p. 8.

### CHEMICAL INHIBITS LINEN MILDEW

According to the Monsanto Chemical Company, a chemical which has been proved to effectively inhibit mildewing of linens, and does not require special equipment or handling, is being offered the laundry and linen supply trade. It is sodium pentachlorophenate, a water soluble fungicide sold under the trade name of Biolite. A few cents worth of the chemical in the final clear rinse will treat several hundred pounds of linens.

American Wool and Cotton Reporter, July 28, 1949, p.13.

## OILSEEDS AND RELATED PRODUCTS

### MORE ACREAGE PLANTED IN 1949, BUT PRODUCTION MAY DECLINE

The acreage planted in oilseeds this year exceeds that of 1948, as increases for cotton and flaxseed more than offset the smaller plantings of soybeans and peanuts. However, this year's total output of oilseeds, in terms of potential vegetable oil production, may be smaller than in 1948 largely because per acre yields may not reach last year's record levels. Cotton acreage in cultivation on July 1 this year is estimated at 26.4 million, 14 percent larger than last year and 20 percent greater than the 1938-47 average. Flaxseed acreage this year is estimated at 5 million, 2 percent more than a year ago and 44 percent more than the ten year average. Soybean acreage grown alone for all purposes is estimated at 11.1 million, 6 percent less than last year and the lowest since 1941. Peanut acreage planted alone for all purposes in 1949 is estimated at 3.2 million, a 20 percent decline from last year and 9 percent below the 1938-47 average. (Table 9).

### MOST VEGETABLE OILS AND MEALS SELL HIGHER; LINSEED OIL AND MEAL DECLINE

Prices of most vegetable oils advanced slightly from June to July and very substantially from July to mid-August. The price of linseed oil dropped sharply with termination of the CCC price support for linseed oil from the 1948 crop on June 30 of this year. Prices of most oilseed meals advanced substantially from June to mid-August with cottonseed, peanut, and soybean meals rising to their highest levels since August 1948. (Table 10)



Table 9.- Oil crops: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, United States, 1937-49

Item	Unit	Average: 1937-41	Average: 1942-46	1947	1948	1949 indicated July 1
<u>Cottonseed</u>						
Acreage in cultivation July 1.....	Mil. acres	26.4	20.2	21.5	23.1	26.4
Yield per acre in cultivation July 1.....	Pounds	414	433	435	514	-
Production.....	1,000 tons	5,500	4,394	4,681	5,941	-
<u>Soybeans</u>						
Acreage grown alone.....	Mil. acres	8.8	13.1	13.0	11.7	11.1
Acreage harvested for beans.....	Mil. acres	4.1	10.2	11.2	10.3	9.7
Yield per acre harvested.....	Bushels	18.7	18.9	16.4	21.4	-
Production.....	Mil. bu.	77	193	184	220	-
<u>Flaxseed</u>						
Planted acreage.....	Mil. acres	2.3	4.1	4.2	4.9	5.0
Yield per acre planted.....	Bushels	8.0	8.3	9.7	10.7	9.1
Production.....	Mil. bu.	19.6	34.0	40.5	52.5	45.6
<u>Peanuts</u>						
Acreage grown alone.....	Mil. acres	2.4	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.2
Acreage picked and threshed.....	Mil. acres	1.8	3.3	3.4	3.3	2.6 <sup>1/</sup>
Yield per acre picked and threshed.....	Pounds	767	649	646	706	-
Production.....	Mil. lbs.	1,395	2,106	2,183	2,338	1,700 <sup>2/</sup>
<u>4 oil crops</u>						
Planted acreage <sup>3/</sup> .....	Mil. acres	39.8	41.5	42.7	43.7	45.6

<sup>1/</sup> If the usual relation between planted and picked and threshed acreage prevails.

<sup>2/</sup> If the 1943-47 average yield is realized.

<sup>3/</sup> Computed from unrounded numbers.

From Fats and Oil Situation, BAE, July 1949, p. 5.

#### CASTOR BEANS: CALIFORNIA MAY GROW CASTOR BEANS COMMERCIALY

The San Joaquin Valley of California is the best region in the United States for growing castor beans, according to R. A. Houghland, agronomist for the Baker Castor Oil Co. Research has been conducted by this company for two years, and test plots have yielded from 2,500 to 3,500 pounds per acre. From these test plots it is expected there will be enough seed to plant 30 or 40 thousand acres in 1950. There has been no commercial production up to now due to the high cost of harvesting. This obstacle, however, has been overcome with the development of a mechanical harvester. Castor beans are bringing about \$150 a ton. About 300 million pounds a year are imported, principally from Brazil. Castor beans might be used to take the place of some of the cotton acreage given up next year. The two crops have much the same growing season, although the castor beans probably use slightly less water than cotton.

The Cotton Gin and Oil Mill Press, May 28, 1949, p. A-4.



Table 10.- Prices of vegetable oils and meals

	August 1949	July 1949	June 1949	August 1948
	Cents per pound			
<b>OILS 1/</b>	<b>August 15</b>			
Cottonseed oil.....	14.5	11.1	10.0	24.6
Peanut oil.....	18.0	13.7	11.4	25.2
Soybean oil.....	12.0	9.7	9.4	22.1
Corn oil.....	14.5	11.1	10.7	24.6
Coconut oil 2/.....	18.5	17.8	17.4	24.4
Linseed oil 3/.....	22.8	25.3	28.3	29.1
Tung oil 4/.....	24.3	22.4	21.5	22.0
	Dollars per ton			
<b>MEALS 5/</b>	<b>August 13</b>			
Cottonseed meal 6/	70.00	68.25	59.15	67.10
Peanut meal 7/	80.00	66.00	56.00	67.70
Soybean meal 8/	93.75	85.50	75.40	84.40
Coconut meal 9/	56.00	57.40	59.00	82.00
Linseed meal 10/	59.00	60.90	54.75	66.80

- 1/ Crude, tanks, f.o.b. mills except as noted. From Oil Paint and Drug Reporter, (daily quotations) and from Fats and Oils Situation, BAE (monthly quotations).
- 2/ Crude, tanks, carlots, Pacific Coast. Three cents added to allow for tax on first domestic processing.
- 3/ Raw, drums, carlots, New York.
- 4/ Drums, carlots, New York.
- 5/ Bagged carlots, as given in Feedstuffs (daily quotation) and Feed Situation, BAE (monthly quotations).
- 6/ 41 percent protein, Memphis.
- 7/ 41 percent protein, S. E. Mills.
- 8/ 41 percent protein, Chicago.
- 9/ 19 percent protein, Los Angeles.
- 10/ 34 percent protein, Minneapolis.
- 11/ Preliminary.

#### PEANUTS: WORLD CROP IN 1948 A RECORD

World peanut production in 1948 is estimated at a record figure of 11,065,000 short tons of unshelled nuts, according to the USDA's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This represents an increase of 3 percent over the 1947 crop and 16 percent over the prewar average. China, the United States, and Nigeria showed significant increases over 1947; French West Africa's production was unchanged; and India's, 10 percent smaller. North American production reached a peak of 1,261,000 tons, almost double the prewar years. The United States accounted for 90 percent of the continental crop, or 1,134,000 tons. This represented a 3 percent increase over the record crop of 1942 and an 84 percent increase over the 1935-39 average. During 1948, exports of more than 349,000 tons placed the United States second only to French West Africa among the world's peanut exporting countries.

The Cotton Gin and Oil Mill Press, May 28, 1949, p.A-10.

#### PEANUTS: USDA SETS 1949 PEANUT SUPPORTS

The Agricultural Department announced that it will support grower prices of 1949 crop farmers-stock (unprocessed) peanuts at an average of about \$210 a ton, or 10.5 cents a pound. Under farm law, the Department is required to provide supports at 90 percent of the August 1 parity price of peanuts. Base support



rates for various types of peanuts include: \$209 a ton for Spanish and Valencias grown East of the Mississippi River, \$204 for the same types grown West of the Mississippi River, \$199 for Virginias, and \$187 for runners, for peanuts containing less than 2 percent damage and less than 4 percent foreign material. Comparable base grade support rates for 1948-crop peanuts, respectively, were: \$215, \$210, \$207, and \$195. Peanut prices will be supported by means of (1) loans to producers on farm-stored stocks; (2) Government purchases of farm stocks; (3) loans to sellers; and (4) agreements with shellers under which they will not pay less than support prices for eligible peanuts.

Journal of Commerce, August 4, p. 14.

#### PEANUTS: NUTS, POTATO CHIPS WITHOUT GREASE

A method of making edible nuts greaseless is expected to be popular with persons who would eat more salted nuts if they did not get their clothes, faces, and hands so greasy. The method consists of processing the nuts with a salty lacquer, instead of dipping them in oil. This lacquer is made from pectin found in fruit. Pectin contains both salt and oil but dries into a brittle coating which gives the nut a slick, attractive surface. Pectin can be supplied in almost any desirable color.

A greaseless potato chip, destined for a great future at cocktail parties, is possible because of a new method of processing potatoes. The moisture is first removed and the potato is then frozen. When it is sliced and cooked, it absorbs less grease. Advantages of this process are said to be: (1) With part of the moisture removed, the potatoes weigh less, thereby reducing shipping charges; (2) frozen potatoes keep much better than unfrozen ones; (3) it takes less grease to make chips from these potatoes, thereby saving money for the chip manufacturer; and (4) the cocktail party guest saves on his dry cleaning bills.

The Peanut Journal and Nut World, May 1949, p.39.

#### PECANS: PECAN BY-PRODUCTS UTILIZED

There is a spread of about 3 percent between the actual meat content of pecans and the amount of salable meat recovered. Since 1943, J. R. Fleming and Co. has been extracting oil from the previously wasted portion and is now processing this fraction from about 90 percent of all the pecan-shelling plants west of the Mississippi River. About 90 percent of the production is being consumed by the drug and essential oil trade. The company also produces weekly from the shells about 100,000 pounds of tannin, some of which is going into the tanning industry, another portion into "drilling mud." Ground pecan shells have also been used in the plastics industry, for "sand-blasting" machinery and airplane engines, and for cleaning raw furs.

Economic Botany, April-June, 1949, p.169.

#### RICE: RECORD RICE CROP REPORTED

A record rice crop of 88.2 million bushels is expected. This would be 9 percent larger than the 1948 crop of 81.2 million bushels and 40 percent above the 10-year average of 62.9 million bushels. Indicated production in the southern area of Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas is 65.5 million bushels, slightly below the 66.3 million bushels harvested in this area last year, but about 15 million bushels above average. In California, the indicated record crop of 22.6 million bushels greatly exceeds that for any other year. The United States yield per acre, indicated at 49.1 bushels, exceeds both the 1948 and average yields by 2.5 bushels.

Crop Production, BAE, August 10, 1949, p. 12.



# LINTERS AND CELLULOSE

LINTERS: PRICE OF PURIFIED LINTERS REDUCED; DISSOLVING WOOD PULP UNCHANGED

The price of purified linters declined to 8 cents per pound in July as compared with 8.70 cents per pound during the previous month. This is the third price reduction in purified linters during the current year. Dissolving wood pulp prices, which were reduced in June for the first time in 10 months, remained unchanged.

Table 11.- Average annual price of purified linters and dissolving wood pulp, 1946-48 and monthly quotations April-July 1949  
(Cents per pound)

	Purified linters 1/	Standard viscose grade	Wood pulp 2/ High-Tenacity: viscose grade	Acetate & cupra grade
1946.....	9.50	5.60	5.85	6.15
1947.....	16.30	7.03	7.44	8.04
1948.....	11.25	7.93	8.44	9.20
1949, April.....	9.35	8.20	8.70	9.50
1949, May.....	9.00	8.20	8.70	9.50
1949, June.....	8.70	7.95	8.40	8.90
1949, July.....	8.00	7.95	8.40	8.90

1/ Weighted averages, 1946-47. On 7 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. pulp plant. Average freight to users is 0.5 percent per pound. Prices supplied by a producer.

2/ Average of average monthly prices, 1946-47. Compiled from Rayon Organon and from letters to us from producers. Wood pulp prices are on a 10 percent moisture basis, f.o.b. domestic producing mill, full freight and 3 percent transportation tax allowed, December 1, 1947, on; freight equalized with that of Atlantic or Gulf port carrying lowest backhaul rate to destination plus 3 percent backhaul charges, prior to December 1.

LINTERS: LINTERS PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION AT RECORD HIGH

Production of linters during the 1948-49 season reached a record high of approximately 1,650,000 bales. This compared with 1947-48 production of 1,288,000 bales and the 10-year (1938-47) average of 1,165,000 bales. Production in the current season is expected to be close to the 1948-49 estimated production, totaling in the neighborhood of 1,575,000 bales. This estimate is based on the August 1 cotton crop forecast and the ratio of lint to seed, the percent of seed crushed, the average cut per ton of seed crushed, and average bale weights during the five year (1943-47) period. Domestic consumption of 1,407,000 bales of cotton linters during the 1948-49 season was the largest peacetime consumption on record. The previous high was in 1947-48 when 1,156,000 bales were consumed. A sharp increase in bleachers' use of linters during 1948-49 was chiefly responsible for the larger domestic consumption. Bleachers consumed 841,000 bales, about 32 percent more than the 636,000 bales they used in the previous season. Other consumers used 566,000 bales, or 9 percent more than in the 1947-48 season. Linters consumption in July totaled 103,100 bales against 122,000 bales in June and 86,500 last July. (Table 12)

Weekly Cotton Linters Review, August 1949.



Table 12.- Cotton linters: Production, consumption by industries, stocks, and prices, United States, for specified months

	July	June	May	April	July
	1949	1949	1949	1949	1948
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Production 1/.....	55.0	57.9	80.0	99.0	32.0
Consumption 2/.....	102.1	122.0	126.4	120.0	86.5
Quantity bleached.....	52.9	72.1	79.8	73.2	46.3
Other industries.....	50.2	49.9	46.6	46.7	40.2
Stocks 3/ .....	4/	503.0	589.0	660.0	360.0
Prices	Cents 5/	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
No. 2 grade, per lb.....	7.77	7.84	7.84	7.87	9.21
No. 4 grade, per lb.....	4.43	4.32	4.32	4.30	6.69
No. 6 grade, per lb.....	2.06	2.57	2.75	2.82	4.82

1/ From Weekly Cotton Linters Review, PMA, Cotton Branch, USDA.

2/ From Facts for Industry, Cotton and Linters, Bureau of the Census.

3/ Total stocks in consuming establishments, public storage and warehouses, and oil mills. Stocks at end of the month. From Facts for Industry, Cotton Linters, Bureau of the Census.

4/ Data not available.

5/ Preliminary.

#### PULP: WHITE PAPER, WALLBOARD, AND PLASTICS MADE FROM SCRUB OAK

The University of Florida has made white paper, wallboard, and plastics from the scrub oak tree, according to Representative Sikes, of Florida. He further stated that "Scrub oak is one of a number of so-called inferior hardwoods, which occupy hundreds of thousands of acres in this country, and for which at present there is practically no market."

Pulp and Paper Manufacturer, July 15, 1949, p.22.

#### PULP: U.S. PRODUCERS SLASH RAYON WOOD PULP OUTPUT IN JUNE

Production of wood pulp used in the manufacture of rayon was slashed during the month of June, according to the United States Pulp Producers Association. June output of dissolving pulp amounted to 20,340 tons, over 11,000 tons below the production during May and more than 14,500 tons under the output in June 1948. Aided by this drop in domestic production of rayon pulp, producers' stocks on hand were cut approximately 4,500 tons during June, despite reduced shipments, which fell from 27,210 tons in May and 34,043 tons in June 1948 to 21,932 tons in June this year. This cut in takings by yarn producers reflects their unwillingness to build up pulp stocks at a time when rayon sales have just commenced a comeback from lows in March and April, observers remarked.

Journals of Commerce, August 3, 1949, p. 18.



